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10/002,614	11/29/2001	Eva Kluge	CRR0002	2915

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THOMAS K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/002,614	Applicant(s) KLUGE ET AL.	
	Examiner Thomas K Pham	Art Unit 2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

First Action on the Merits

1. Claims 1-25 of U.S. Application 10/002614 filed on 11/29/2001 are presented for examination.

Quotations of U.S. Code Title 35

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claims 3, 10 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
7. Claim 3, 10 and 12-20 are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 3, 10 and 12-20 cannot be determine as claimed when both a method and a device are together in the same claim.
8. Examiner could not determine from the claim language on the term “methods” in claims 12-20 to be interpret as “a method claim” or as a mean plus function “means”. However, for examination purposes, examiner is replacing with “means” where it said “methods” in claims 12-20.
9. Applicants are advise to make all appropriate correction to the claims in order to overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. Claims 1-3,5-6, 8, 10-13, 16-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,864,480 (“Ladd”).

Regarding claim 1

Ladd teaches an electronic product manual comprising:

- a plurality of data structures holding data representing a product and having a hierarchical relationship as components and sub-components with each other (fig. 2);

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- a graphical user interface (GUI) configured to present data selected from the plurality of data structures to a user in the form of displayed objects, receive input from the user, and enable a user to select data from the plurality of data structures by selecting a displayed object (col. 4 lines 7-15, “The PCC incorporates two major ... release of the products”);
- a first view of the selected data structure displayed in the GUI upon selection, the first view comprising an image of the selected object (col. 4 lines 43-44, “The PDG can open ... clicking on the document icon”);
- a second view of the selected data structure displayed in the GUI upon selection, the second view including information indicating a hierarchical relationship of the selected data structure with respect to other data structures (col. 4 lines 58-61, “For browsing purposes, the PDG ... its respective product tree”); and
- a third view of the selected data structure displayed in the GUI upon selection, the third view including component-specific information (col. 4 lines 61-67, “From here, one of the phase tree ... tool to which it is linked”).

Regarding claim 2

Ladd teaches the first, second and third views of the selected data structure are displayed simultaneously (fig. 1 shows the PCC24 displayed simultaneously multiple windows).

Regarding claim 3

Ladd teaches defined within the graphical user interface enabling selection of any displayed object from any of the first, second and third views (col. 4 lines 58-67, “For browsing purposes ... to which it is linked”). Examiner considers little patentable weight to the word “methods” since it is improper (see 35 USC 112 rejection above).

Regarding claim 5

Ladd teaches the first view further comprises help information obtained from the selected data structure associated with a particular displayed object and made visible in the first view when user input indicates a focus on the particular displayed object (col. 9 lines 10-14, “In the PDG 30 ... and a Help Program 32”).

Regarding claim 6

Ladd teaches the second view comprises a tree structure depicting the hierarchical relationship (col. 6 lines 50-63, “A life cycle tree, as defined ... tree can be created”).

Regarding claim 8

Ladd does not teach each of the plurality of data structures includes data types relevant to the first, second and third views. However, it is inherent for the multiple views to includes data types relevant with each other since they are related and associated with one another.

Regarding claim 10

Ladd teaches a selection tool operable to receive user input and indicate a user-selected object from the plurality of displayed objects in one of the first, second, and third views (col. 4 lines 10-15, “The PSG is used ... release of the products”). Examiner considers the limitation “*the methods within the GUI for updating the first, second, and third views in response to the user's selection of an object*” with little patentable weight for the reason stated in the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection above.

Regarding claims 11 and 22

Ladd teaches each of the plurality of data structures defines a default perspective and the act of

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updating the first, second and third views comprises presenting the default perspectives (col. 2 11-19, “The PCC includes a graphical ... quality management process”).

Regarding claim 12

Ladd teaches a display object for a product manual having a graphical user interface, the display object corresponding to a real-world component of a system, the display object comprising:

- a link to a unit data structure (col. 2 lines 23-26, “There is provided a quick ... to a development environment”);
- first presentation means initiated in response to selection of the displayed object and operable to retrieve an image of the display object from the unit data structure and display the image using the graphical user interface (col. 4 lines 43-44, “The PDG can open ... clicking on the document icon”);
- second presentation means initiated in response to selection of the displayed object and operable to retrieve a hierarchical view from the unit data structure and display the hierarchical view using the graphical user interface (col. 4 lines 58-61, “For browsing purposes, the PDG ... its respective product tree”); and
- third presentation means initiated in response to selection of the displayed object and operable to retrieve a information about the real-world component from the unit data structure and display the information using the graphical user interface (col. 4 lines 61-67, “From here, one of the phase tree ... tool to which it is linked”).

Regarding claim 13

Ladd teaches selection means operable to retrieve selected data from the unit data structure in response to user input indicated selection of the displayed object (col. 2 lines 27-36, “The system

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accepts a ... release and support”).

Regarding claim 16

Ladd teaches functionality means for accessing a description of functionality of the real-world component from the unit data structure (col. 5 lines 6-10, “The Functional Description ... assist in concept description”).

Regarding claim 17

Ladd teaches actions means for accessing a description of actions that are possible to perform on the real-world component from the unit data structure (col. 5 lines 6-10, “The Functional Description ... assist in concept description”).

Regarding claim 18

Ladd teaches error state means for accessing a description of potential error states for the real-world object from the unit data structure (col. 8 lines 17-37, “The product description ... step to be undertaken”).

Regarding claim 21

Ladd teaches data structures within the unit data structure for indicating relationships between the display object and other, external display objects, wherein the relationships mirror relationships between real-world components (col. 6 lines 50-63, “A life cycle tree ... tree can be created”).

Regarding claim 23

Ladd teaches a method for displaying a product manual for a particular product, the product comprising a plurality of components and sub-components, in an interactive graphical user interface, the method comprising the acts of: gathering resources related to the product and its

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components and sub-components, the information including information of types selected from the group consisting essentially of documentation, ordering information, graphical display information, functionality, actions, error states and animation (col. 2 lines 11-19, "The PCC includes a graphical ... total quality management process"); organizing the information into sets of information related to particular components and sub-components within the particular product (col. 3 lines 48-55, "Once the process has been ... a milestone or decision point, too"); defining a unit object data structure to hold data for related to a particular component irrespective of the data type (col. 4 lines 6-16, "A. PCC Components ... release of the products"); and using data from the unit data structure of an initial component to generate a graphical user interface corresponding to the unit data structure and presenting user-selectable links to sub-component unit data structures (col. 4 lines 30-38, "The PDG accepts the input ... product development and maintenance").

Regarding claim 24

Ladd teaches the act of using the first instance to instantiate subsequent instances of the unit object class for selected sub-components (col. 4 lines 43-51, "The PDG can open the ... tree is a schedule").

Regarding claim 25

Ladd teaches an appliance comprising: a plurality of subsystems cooperating to cause the appliance to perform one or more functions (fig. 3); an electronic control system including a data processor and memory capable of executing program instructions to control operation of the subsystems (fig. 1, workstation 10); an interface coupled to the data processor for accessing external data sources (fig. 1, workstation 10 inherently has interface from data processor to an

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external disk storage 14); and computer code devices executing on the data processor to cause the processor to implement a graphical user interface displaying data obtained from the external data sources (fig. 1 shows workstation 10 implementing a GUI on monitor 12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. Claims 4, 7, 9, 14-15 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ladd.

Regarding claim 4

Ladd teaches the selected object having user-selectable sub-components but does not teach the first view comprises a three-dimensional image. "Official Notice" is taken for the concept and advantages of having a manual with a three-dimensional image component display is well known and expected in the art. U.S. Patent No. 5,794,257 by Liu et al. teaches displaying of 3D CAD models for a particular complex piece of equipment (col. 5 lines 56-62) for the purpose of easily identifying a visible parts on an electronic manual. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a 3D display of a component object in an electronic manual because it would provide for the purpose of easily identifying a visible parts on an electronic manual.

Regarding claims 7 and 14

Ladd does not teaches the third view presents ordering information relevant to the selected object. "Official Notice" is taken for the concept and advantages of having a view presents ordering information relevant to the selected object is well known and expected in the art. U.S. Patent No. 5,504,674 by Chen et al. teaches an electronic insurance estimating manual including

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a part ordering information for the damage (col. 5 lines 46-53, “The communications network ... to the repair terminals”) for the purpose of providing cost information regarding a part.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a part ordering information associate with an object for the purpose of providing cost information regarding a component object.

Regarding claims 9 and 15

Ladd does not teach at least one of the plurality of data structures includes a pointer to an external data store having current information. “Official Notice” is taken for the concept and advantages of having a view presents ordering information relevant to the selected object is well known and expected in the art. U.S. Patent No. 5,794,257 by Lui et al. also teaches linking to external data store for current information of a manual on a part (abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have an external data store containing the most up-to-date information of a manual for convenience of the user.

Regarding claim 19

Ladd does not teach animation means coupled to communicate with the actions means for retrieving animation sequence data from the unit data structure and generating an animation depicting the actions on the graphical user interface. “Official Notice” is taken for the concept and advantages of having animation in an electronic manual to depict the actions on a graphical user interface is well known and expected in the art. U.S. Patent No. 6,567,079 by Smailagic et al. teaches accesing interactive electronic technical manuals with animated actions (col. 6 lines 27-33, “Maintenance – As systems ... to replace them”) for the purpose identifying components

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as part of the maintenance procedure in the electronic manual. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the animated components in an electronic manual for the purpose identifying components as part of the maintenance procedure.

Regarding claim 20

Ladd does not teach animation means coupled to communicate with the functionality means for retrieving functionality data from the unit data structure and generating an animation depicting the functionality on the graphical user interface. "Official Notice" is taken for the concept and advantages of having animation in an electronic manual to depict the actions on a graphical user interface is well known and expected in the art. U.S. Patent No. 6,567,079 by Smailagic et al. teaches accessing interactive electronic technical manuals with animated actions (col. 6 lines 27-33, "Maintenance – As systems ... to replace them") for the purpose identifying components as part of the maintenance procedure in the electronic manual. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the animated components in an electronic manual for the purpose identifying components as part of the maintenance procedure.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

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Any response to this office action should be mailed to: **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450**. Responses may also be faxed to the **official fax number (703) 872- 9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham
Patent Examiner

TP

November 2, 2004



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